

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 LAB-04 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4223

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 5801

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS; DEMONSTRATORS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY; KBL STILL LEADS IN METRO MANILA

REF: MANILA 5694

1. SUMMARY: ALL 562 LABAN DEMONSTRATORS WERE FORMALLY CHARGED APRIL 12; THE EIGHT LEADERS WERE HELD "FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING", WHILE THE REST WERE TRMPORARILY RELEASED. THE OFFICIAL COUNT FOR METRO MANILA SHOWS ALL KBL CANDIDATES STILL AHEAD. ONE KBL CANDIDATE IS RUMORED TO HAVE DIED. COMELEC WILL RE-EXAMINE 800 PRECINCT TALLY SHEETS PROTESTED BY LABAN. COMELEC HAS ANNOUNCED PROCEDURES TO SELECT IBP SECTORAL REPS. PRESIDENT MARCOS PREDICTS THE IBP CAN MEET IN LATE MAY. NATIONALISTIC COLUMNISTS CONTINUE TO HIT FOREIGN MEDDLING. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL 562 LABAN DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED APRIL 9 WERE CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 12. THE SUMMARY PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION (SPI) WAS CONDUCTED BY A THREE-OFFICER MILITARY PANEL HEADED BY THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL HIMSELF, BG HAMILTON DIMAYA. THE EIGHT LEADERS (REFTEL) ARE BEING "HELD FOR FURTHER QUESTINGING" FOR POSSIBLE CHARGES OF SEDITION AND INCITING TO SEDITION. ALL OTHERS HAVE
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REPORTEDLY BEEN RELEASED; THEY MUST CHECK IN WITH THE MILITARY EVERY WEEK. ALL HAVE TEN DAYS TO SUBMIT COUNTER-AFFIDAVITS REBUTTING THE FORMAL CHARGES. (COMMENT: NEWS REPORTS ON THE SPI WERE RELEGATED TO BACK PAGES OF ALL MANILA DAILIES; GOP IS APPARENTLY SEEKING TO EASE POLITICAL TENSION AND RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE. END COMMENT.)

3. OFFICIAL COMELEC RESULTS AS OF 1700 APRIL 12, COVERING 2,910 METRO MANILA PRECINCTS (ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF TOTAL), SHOW KBL STILL SWEEPING THE 21 METRO MANILA IBP SEATS. MRS. MARCOS LEADS WITH 458,111 VOTES AND OPPOSITION LEADER AQUINO HAS 332,375 FOR A 58-42 PERCENT SPLIT. AQUINO IS 48,405 VOTES BEHIND THE LOWEST KBL CANDIDATE.

4. EMBOFF HEARD RUMOR APRIL 12 THAT KBL'S OLDEST CANDIDATE IN MANILA, 81-YEAR-OLD BUSINESSMAN PABLO FLORO, DIED APRIL 11, WITHIN HOURS OF THE ISSUANCE OF PD 1348 (PARA 5, REFTTEL), WHICH ALLOWS KBL TO NAME REPLACEMENTS FOR ITS CANDIDATES WHO DIE BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE. (COMMENT: AQUINO IS THUS BLOCKED FROM MOVING INTO 21ST PLACE AND WINNING A SEAT. END COMMENT.) FLORO'S ALLEGED DEATH HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN LOCAL MEDIA.

5. LABAN SPOKESMEN REPORTEDLY MET WITH THE COMELEC APRIL 12 TO PROTEST SOME 2,000 METRO MANILA PRECINCT TALLY SHEETS WHICH THEY FELT WERE FRADULENT OR WHICH THEY HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY DENIED ACCESS TO. ACCORDING TO APRIL 13 MANILA DAILIES, COMELEC DECIDED TO CONTINUE COUNTING THESE VOTES BUT AGREED TO RE-EXAMINE 800 OF THE TALLY SHEETS AFTER THE COUNT IS COMPLETED.

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6. COMELEC APRIL 12 ANNOUNCED PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF THE 14 SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE IBP, COVERING YOUTH, INDUSTRIAL LABOR AND AGRICULTURAL LABOR. EACH SECTOR IS TO CHOOSE TWO REPRESENTATIVES FOR LUZON AND ONE EACH FOR THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO; THE YOUTH SECTOR GETS TWO ADDITIONAL AT-LARGE SEATS. POTENTIAL SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES FILED THEIR CANDIDACIES MARCH 31. FOR THE 71 PROVINCES, THE RESPECTIVE SECTORAL MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL AND CITY SANGGUNIANG BAYANS WILL MEET TO ELECT ONE DELEGATE FOR THE PROVINCE FOR EACH SECTOR. FOR METRO MANILA, EACH BARANGAY WILL SEND A SECTOR MEMBER TO MEETINGS APRIL 21 TO SELECT TEN DELEGATES FOR EACH SECTOR. IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WILL ORGANIZE RAND-AND-FILE ELECTIONS OF TEN AT-LARGE DELEGATES WACH FROM THE KABATANG BARANGAY (YOUTH) AND INDUSTRIAL AND FARM LABOR UNIONS. THE 91 DELEGATES FOR EACH OF THE THREE SECTORS WILL MEET IN MANILA APRIL 26 AND SELECT THEIR IBP REPRESENTATIVES APRIL 27.

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7. PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED A FEW DAYS AGO THAT HE WILL APPOINT THE 20 NON-ELECTED CABINET MEMBERS TO THE IBP AFTER THE SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES ARE CHOSEN. HE PREDICTED HE WOULD FINISH THIS PROCESS BY THE END OF APRIL ; THEN THE IBP WOULD CONVENE 30 DAYS LATER, BY THE END OF MAY. SENATOR TOLENTINO HAS PUBLICLY SUGGESTED THAT JUNE 12 (FILIPINO INDEPENDENCE DAY) WOULD BE A FITTING DATE FOR THE INITIAL CONVENING OF THE IBP.

8. NATIONALISTIC COLUMNISTS CONTINUE TO PLAY THE FOREIGN MEDDLING THEME. TIMES JOURNAL'S GRANADA: BEGIN QUOTE: AMERICAN MEDDLING IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS HAS NOT CEASED EVEN AFTER THE ELECTION. IF ANYTHING, IT THREATENS TO BECOME WORSE. FOR IN SPITE OF THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE, SOME AMERICANS WOULD WANT TO RUN PRESIDENT MARCOS AND HIS GOVERNMENT. MANY VOTERS PRECISELY RALLIED BEHIND MR. MARCOS BECAUSE OF HIS DENUNCIATIONS OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION. FOR MORE THAN ANY OTHER ISSUE, FORMER SEN. BENIGNO AQUINO'S TIES WITH THE AMERICANS CAUSED HIS DEFEAT AT THE POLLS. BUT THE AMERICAN ALWAYS LEARN IT THE HARD WAY IN ASIA. IN VIETNAM, FOR INSTANCE. OR CHINA BEFORE VIETNAM. DO THEY WANT TO LEARN IT THE HARD WAY, TOO, IN THE PHILIPPINES? BUT WHY DO THE AMERICANS WANT TO CONTINUE MEDDLING IN PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS? THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS THEY WANT TO PROMOTE THEIR OWN INTERESTS WITH THE USE

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OF FILIPINO POLITICIANS OF THEIR CHOICE. THEIR PUPPETS. HAPPILY, THERE'S NO SIGN THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WILL SUCCUMB TO AMERICAN PRESSURE. EITHER ON DOMESTIC OR

FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WHY SHOULD HE WHEN HE PRECISELY WON THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE ON THE ISSUE OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION? MR. MARCOS CAN STAND UP TO THE AMERICANS NOW THAT THERE IS A NORMAL GOVERNMENT OF WORLDWIDE ACCEPTANCE. AND WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE IBP SPENDS A CONSIDERABLE PART OF ITS TIME DENOUNCING AMERICAN PRESSURE ON EVERYTHING, FROM DOMESTIC AFFAIRS TO THE BASES ISSUE. IT'S UP TO THE AMERICANS WHETHER THEY WANT CORDIAL OR ADVERSARY RELATIONS. END QUOTE.

9. DAILY EXPRESS' VALENCIA: BEGIN QUOTE: SECRETARY ROMULO'S PROTEST TO THE US STATE DEPARTMENT IS POINTLESS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT CONTROL THE US PRESS. IT ALSO TRIES TO INFLUENCE THAT PRESS LIKE ALL OTHER NATIONS AND PEOPLES DO BECAUSE THE US PRESS IS ALSO A GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAVE THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT, THE PRESS AND BIG BUSINESS. OUR TROUBLE IS THAT WE HAVE AN ADVERSE AMERICAN PRESS PROPELLED BY AMERICAN BIG BUSINESS THAT WANTS TO DOMINATE US LIKE BEFORE. THE AMERICAN CONGRESS WHICH THRIVES ON THE PAMPERING OR SUPPORT OF THE US PRESS, FOLLOWS SUIT. OUR ONLY HOPE IS THE US EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT--THE PRESIDENCY; THAT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS PRAGMATIC AND LISTENS TO LESSONS OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY. THE AMERICAN PRESS, BIG BUSINESS AND CONGRESS COULD NOT CARE LESS WHAT HAPPENS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. NOT ANY OF THESE THREE OTHER AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS LISTEN TO THE PRESIDENT. LET'S DO THE RIGHT THING BY DEPORTING FOREIGN NEWSMEN WHO ARE MEDDLERS IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. BUT LET'S KEEP THE DOOR OPEN TO LEGITIMATE FOREIGN NEWSMEN WHO CAN CONFINE THEMSELVES TO CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTING. TOO MANY OF FOREIGN NEWSMEN ASSIGNED TO THE PHILIPPINES ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE CAN'T TOUCH THEM BECAUSE THE US STATE DEPARTMENT WON'T TOLERATE ANY ACTION WE CAN TAKE TO MAKE THEM OBEY THE LAWS. ONE PARTICULAR NEWSMAN, AMERICAN, SAYS THAT HE CAN'T BE TOUCHED. IF WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE, LET'S STOP PROTESTING THEIR ACTIONS AND ACCEPT THE FACT THAT OUR RULES FOR THE PRESS ARE ONLY FOR FILIPINOS. END QUOTE.
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